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SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK VISITS DRVN



At the invitation of President Ton Duc Thang, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK), accompanied by Princess Monique Sihanouk, Samdech Penn Nouth, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, Chairman of the Politbureau of the FUNK, and his wife, and other Cambodian VIP's arrived in Hanoi on May 25, 1970 on an official visit to the DRVN. He was warmly welcomed by the leaders of the DRVN and the population of the Capital City (See photo).

Samdech N. Sihanouk and the other distinguished Cambodian guests attended on the evening of May 26 a state reception given by President Ton Duc Thang.

On the afternoon of the same day, he laid a wreath at the Hanoi War Memorial and visited the house on

stills of late President Ho Chi Minh.

President Ton Duc Thang and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had cordial talks. Also present were, on the Vietnamese side: Premier Pham Van Dong, Vice-Premiers Vo Nguyen Giap and Nguyen Duy Trinh, Minister Hoang Minh Giam, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach and Ambassador Nguyen Thuong, and on the Cambodian side: Samdech Premier Penn Nouth, Ministers Ngo Hou, Thiounn Mumm and Huot Sambath and Ambassador Sien An.

The Hanoi City Council called on the evening of May 27 a big rally in honor of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and personalities of his suite.

Important speeches were delivered on this occasion by Premier Pham Van Dong and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, large excerpts of which are given in this issue.

CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING AMERICAN POLICY OF AGGRESSION AND IN SUPPORT OF INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

(May 20, 1970)

PEOPLE of the world, unite and defeat the US aggressors and all their running dogs!

A new upsurge in the struggle against US imperialism is now emerging throughout the world. Ever since World War Two, US imperialism and its followers have been continuously launching wars of aggression and the people in various countries have been continuously waging revolutionary wars to defeat the aggressors. The danger of a new world war still exists and the people of all countries must get prepared. But revolution is the main trend in the world today.

Unable to win in Viet Nam and Laos, the US aggressors treacherously engineered the reactionary coup d'état by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, brazenly dispatched their troops to invade Cambodia and resumed the bombing of North Viet Nam, and this has aroused the furious resistance of the three Indochinese peoples. I warmly support the fighting spirit of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, in opposing US imperialism and its lackeys. I warmly support the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples. I warmly support the establishment of the Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea. Strengthening their unity, supporting each other and persevering in a protracted people's war, the three Indochinese peoples will certainly overcome all difficulties and win complete victory.

While massacring the people in other countries, US imperialism is slaughtering the white and black people on its own country. Nixon's fascist atrocities have kindled the raging flames of the revolutionary mass movement in the United States. The Chinese people firmly support the revolutionary struggle of the American people. I am convinced that the American people who are fighting valiantly will ultimately win victory and that the fascist rule on the United States will inevitably be defeated.

The Nixon government is beset with troubles internally and externally, with utter chaos at home and extreme isolation abroad. The mass movement of protest against US aggression in Cambodia has swept the globe. Less than ten days after its establishment, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia was recognized by nearly 20 countries. The situation is getting better and better in the war of resistance against US aggression and for national salvation waged by the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

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○ Speeches Delivered by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk

Pages 2 and 3:

○ Children in the DRVN

WHO love Uncle Ho
Chi Minh
Better than me, children,
do?"

A chubby little girl with rosy cheeks, led the round of her childish voice drowned the chorus.

The annual festival of the kindergarten at Tan Ten, a village in Hung Yen province, was attended by mothers, too.

"It's Chinh," said my neighbour, pointing her finger to a little girl. "How plucky she is! Only a few months ago, she was so shy and dirty at home!"

"They are now all sweet after some time at the school," an old country woman told me, chewing her pan. Fancy, there were mothers who refused to send their little ones to the infant school."

It was then that the province received the visit of President Ho Chi Minh who at a meeting gave the famous recommendation:

"If we think in terms of a decade, we plant trees. If we think in terms of a century, we make men."

His comment has now become a watchword. The Party members soon realized the utility of pre-school education. And it was not so difficult to convince women of it. It took only some persuasion work. The children in the village had dirty habits and knew nothing about hygiene. They were rude and buried insults at one another. For want of care, some got drowned, other provoked fires.

The co-operative management prepared essays on the advantages of pre-school

girl manage so many children?"

Hong was not discouraged. By dint of insisting, she succeeded in obtaining the permission to use the communal house and turned it into a classroom. It was an old building which formerly served as a place of work-

CHILDREN IN THE DRVN

It suffices to scour Hanoi and visit some villages in the delta and highlands to see that despite twenty-five years of war and an under-developed economy, the children in the DRVN are full of life and joy. It is because of the regime's solicitous and comprehensive care for their education, health and recreation. On the occasion of Children's International Day (June 1) we give below some glimpses of the DRVN policy regarding children.

the smaller ones and make a difference between study and recreation.

The mothers were now satisfied when at the end of a working day, they brought home a neat and well-behaved offspring.

The experiment proved successful. Since then, 34 infant classes have been opened in all the 10 co-operatives of Tan Ten village, forming an infant school run by a managerial board. Each production team has its own infant class, one class for every 30 peasant households on the average. With the addition of 24 crèches, there was one such organization for every 45 households.

Paddling its own cause without any assistance from the state and any modern furniture, Tan Ten now boasts a whole network of infant classes.

EVERYONE'S CONCERN

The development of the school is due mostly to the concern of all the co-op farmers.

Old Khoat is one of the sponsors of the school. I saw him in the shade of a guava tree in his garden, his head resting on a small chair with plenty of toys.

"What are you doing, grand father?" I asked him.

"Pottering with odds and ends," he said, raising his white-haired head. "You see, I am too old to do field work. So, apart from gar-

dening, I mend the furniture of the infant school and toys for children. It's quite a pleasure for old folk like us to be of some use to the little ones."

The co-op farmers still talk of a generous gesture of old Khoat. He has given two poplars he had planted forty years ago to the first infant class which was in need of furniture. To those who dissuaded him from doing so, he said: "Of course, these trees are most valuable. But the children are more precious to me." And he set a good example. Other old-agers took down their scrolls which adorned their dwellings and used the wood to make furniture for the classroom. They planted trees around the classes for the children to eat the fruit and play in their shade.

Following suit, the mass organizations address themselves to the task of helping infant classes.

The Women's Union urges mothers to send their dear ones to school and donates cash money for the fees. The youth organizations provide teachers and lend a helping hand in any major work. The village nurse looks after the children's health. The teachers of general education schools help the mistresses to make teaching material and toys. State trade companies supply the school on a priority basis with vacuum flasks, wash-basins, clothes, children's footwears, etc.

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An infant school in a Hanoi suburb



AMERICAN bombardments of North Viet Nam have made many orphans, who would have been deprived of family happiness and forsaken if...

A 10-year-old girl of Quang Binh province, one morning, lost her whole family: her father, her mother and her two brothers.

Later, she has not ceased asking the adults: "I could not weep that day! Why?" A boy of 7 wept and cried desperately: "No, I don't want to leave my brother," every time people tried to lead away his 4-year-old young brother, the only next of kin left to him after a bombing raid... How to take care of these children, raise them and educate them so that they may grow up normally? The state alone cannot see to this difficult and complex problem. It is the people who, while unflinchingly confronting the ferocious attacks of a powerful and rabid enemy and relying on their valiant and social organization, have surmounted multiple difficulties to accomplish their duty towards the dead and towards those on whom depends the future of the nation.

Immediately after the outbreak of war, the government issued directives concerning the status of war victims. As far as orphans are concerned, it took concrete measures for organizing them and guaranteeing their rights and defined the responsibility of the state

and the administration at all levels.

It made it a point "not to let any orphan to be neglected, suffer from hunger and cold and drop their studies; families which adopt orphans should be encouraged and helped tide over difficulties if any" (Cq. of the Govt. No. 157/CP).

In Viet Nam, adoption of orphans has been part of humanitarian tradition: in the ancient social community, the family, parenthood and neighbourhood bonds kept all the members together. When a child lost his parents, his great family (parents descending from the same ancestor) attended to his maintenance and education. People used to say: "A drop of pink blood is better than a pond of water" (A relative, however distant, is nearer than a stranger). Never had neglect been shown to anyone who bore the same family name. When the orphan was deprived of all family support, the community adopted him.

Socialism which has established new human relations has upheld this tradition.

More often, the co-op or the close relatives of the orphans rebuild their houses so that they can go on living their habitual life, and assign one of their relatives or one of their neighbours, preferably an old woman, to live with them and attend to their education. In most cases, their schoolmistresses agree to be their god-mothers and take charge of them.

Peasants who have few or no children frequently offer to adopt orphans of their neighbours or their acquaintances. Before committing these children to those peasants, the local administration committee and the co-op management must carefully study their records.

has greatly helped raise and educate the war orphans. Only for seriously wounded orphans who need special care and for those of Vinh Linh (at the 17th parallel) has the Social Security Department set up a special establishment. As soon as this institution was installed, the inhabitants of surrounding areas and those of the cities applied to the Ministry of the Interior for the adoption of these children.

We met Nhung, that 6-year-old orphaned girl who did not know why she could not weep upon the death of her parents and brothers. Raised at first at this special establishment, she has become the adoptive daughter of a family. She very much

WAR ORPHANS IN THE DRVN.

Three essential conditions are required: good morality, comfortable circumstances and few children and dependents. The Social Security Commission joins the local Committee of the Women's Union in supervising the application by local authorities of regulations concerning the status of war orphans. These commissions pay regular visits to the adoptive families.

Orphans who were children of workers and public employees are placed under the protection of the Federation of Trade Unions. As in the countryside, their nearest relatives are put in direct charge.

Quang Binh province had organized a war orphans' pilot camp which had an allowance in cash and in kind equivalent to the remuneration their parents got in their lifetime. To grown-up orphans, the co-op provides jobs, and this takes from them the humiliating feeling that they are living at the expense of others. They get their rice ration from the co-op's relief granary. The school exempts them from the tuition fees and other contributions.

loves her adoptive parents, yet she always remembers her own family, her native village. She likes to relate in detail to her adoptive mother the circumstances of her parents and brothers' death. "I think," her adoptive father told us, "she must know everything about her situation and we must never do harm to the memory she keeps of her own parents. We love her as our own child because she is a good seed which will make the future of our people." Little Nhung attends the first form of the district school. At first, her studies did not go well. The adoptive father told the schoolmistress her painful story. The mistress visited her, asked two classmates of hers to take turns helping her with her learning. Now, her adoptive father told us smilingly, "She works well, she is also very boisterous! Good sign! That's the rebirth of her personality!"

Like little Nhung, our war orphans are given facilities by the new society to become normal men and women.

MAI THI TU

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AT TAN TIEN

A WATCHWORD

CHILDIISH voices still resounded in my ears when I was accompanied by Thang, the Party village committee secretary, a veteran of the first resistance war who still kept the natural simplicity of Vietnamese peasants.

"How do you like our children?" he asked me with much candour.

I had no time to say a comment when he went on:

"To obtain these achievements we have had to work for a decade."

In fact, ten years ago, when the co-operative managerial board wanted to open an infant school, it met with general indifference. Up to that date, in the countryside, children under six usually stayed at home.

A mother said: "Is it necessary that children go to school to learn how to play? Let them shift for themselves at home." Another one simply shrugged off the idea with these words: "My little daughter has to mind her brother at home. How can I manage if she goes to school twice a day?"

Even Party members were not agreeable at least in the beginning. Thang received from the Party provincial committee a directive on the organization of pre-school education. He submitted the question to the Party cell. But a comrade said: "The Party only supplies guidance in production. Leave this job to the Women's Union." Pre-school education, well, it is the business of the Education Department," said another.

education to be used as reading and spelling exercises in complementary classes for housewives.

At meetings, they exchanged views on the behaviour of their children. Figures were produced of those who could not go to the field, being obliged to mind their children, or drownings and fires triggered by uncared-for children.

Such a seminar was experienced on June 1, 1960.

The first teacher was Hong, a young country girl known for her love of children and her energy. After attending a 35 day's crash course at the provincial educational service, she was put in charge of the class.

For lack of place the class was housed in a hut which old Chinh put at the disposal of the co-operative.

As an example, the Party members and co-op farmers sent their little ones to school first. When the number grew, the place was handed over to peasants' children.

Mothers sent their three or seven year-olds together with their babies, for there was nobody at home to look after the latter. This ended in such a confusion that Hong was at her wits' end. The big children did not obey her, they wrought havoc on the garden, and turned the house topsy-turvy. The mistresses of the house filled the houseowner's teapot with earth. Hong had to close the class waiting for separate accommodation.

Tongues were set wagging. "There you see. It could not go on like that," said a woman. "How could that

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG'S SPEECH

(Excerpts)

P RIME MINISTER Pham Van Dong welcomed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, President of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) as "the venerable leader of the brother Khmer people, great friend of the Vietnamese people," and extended cordial greetings to the other distinguished Khmer guests.

The Vietnamese people are proud to have the brother Khmer people for a neighbor. The Khmer nation has a glorious history of over two thousand years of struggle to defend and build their country. With their energy, intelligence and creative labour, the Khmer people who built the grandiose Angkor, and shaped a magnificent and original civilization and a society which attaches great importance to moral and spiritual values, have upheld their traditions of indomitable, achieved a thriving economy, a network of hydraulic works and communication lines, a rich culture, a developed education and health network. All this is a source of legitimate pride and powerful encouragement for generations of Khmers who are so proud of their national independence and skillful in building their beautiful country.

The Prime Minister then recalled the successes achieved by the Khmer people in the contemporary period, due to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's wise policy. The US imperialists bore a grudge against that policy and consequently engineered the coup d'etat of March 19, 1970.

In the face of the US imperialists' aggression, right from the beginning Samdech Head of State has held high the patriotic banner, calling on the entire Khmer people to close their ranks in the National United Front of Kampuchea to resist the American aggression and save their country. The vibrant appeal in Samdech's 5-point Proclamation on March 23, 1970 as well as his subsequent messages to the nation have resounded far and wide in Cambodia, inspiring Khmer patriots of all social strata and political tendencies into unity and action for the independence and liberty of the Motherland.

The Khmer people, the liberation armed forces and the patriotic forces loyal to Samdech Head of State in the Cambodian Royal Army have valiantly fought back the aggressors and their henchmen, dealing them heavy blows, wiping out or disbanding a big part of the Lon Nol army and considerable manpower of the US and Saigon puppets, expanding the liberated areas, consolidating and developing their administration and the FUNK at all levels, thus driving the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique into a more and more critical situation.

Following these successes, the National Congress of the Khmer people was held. It adopted the Political Program and elected the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FUNK.

The Political Program of the FUNK, continuing the tradition of anti-imperialist struggle and glorifying the age-old civilization of the Khmer people, is the sequel and development of the judicious policy of Samdech Head of State during the past fifteen years, the crystallization of solidarity, struggle and victory of the Khmer people, the standard of national independence and construction of a prosperous Cambodia.

In implementation of the Proclamation of March 23, 1970 by Samdech Head of State, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia has been set up, with Samdech Penn Nouth as Prime Minister. It is issued from a broad patriotic movement of the Khmer people, based on administrative organs installed at different levels in the country and relying on the unity of the entire people rallied in the National United Front and on ever growing armed forces.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government warmly welcome the great achievements of the fraternal Khmer people. These are due to ardent patriotism and the spirit of dauntless militancy under the clear-sighted leadership of Samdech Head of State, the continuation of the glorious cause of the Khmer people inaugurated by Jayavarman the Seventh and dating back to the brilliant Angkorian era.

They can be ascribed to the militant solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, which has imparted to them an invincible strength. They have been possible also thanks to the sympathy and great and vigorous support given by the whole progressive mankind to the just cause of the brotherly Khmer people.

Prime Minister Pham Van Dong expressed the profound gratitude of the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government to the Khmer people for their sympathy and vigorous, firm and great and valuable support to Viet Nam's resistance against US aggression.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government pledge themselves to make all efforts to support the just struggle of the fraternal Khmer people against the American imperialist aggressors and their henchmen. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, till total victory. We warmly welcome the Royal Government of National Union, the sole legitimate and legal government of Cambodia. We resolutely demand that the US withdraw immediately its troops and the Saigon puppet troops from Cambodian territory.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government will unflinchingly honour the sacred commitments inscribed in the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference. They have respected and will respect the independence, peace, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present borders. They have respected and will respect her national rights and her political regime.

The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government undertake to do all they can so that all the future generations of our two peoples will live in concord, mutual love and respect, so that they may be cordially united and support each other with all their forces in the fight against the common enemy as well as for long-term co-operation in the building of their countries, each in its own way.

The DRVN Prime Minister stressed the historical significance of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

The Joint Declaration reflects the will of our three peoples to strengthen their solidarity and fight resolutely to defeat completely the common enemy, the US imperialists and their lackeys, to safeguard our respective fundamental national rights. It constitutes a model charter governing the relations among the peoples of neighbour countries. It marks a new and very important step forward in the development of the fraternal friendship and long-standing co-operation among the three peoples of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. In their noble cause, our three peoples have always enjoyed the warm sympathy and priceless support of the socialist countries, the justice- and peace-loving countries and the peoples in the world, including progressives in the United States.

The history of the aggression against, and domination over, our three countries by the colonialists and imperialists for nearly a hundred years from the end of the last century, through World War Two, brings out this fact: be they the French colonialists, the Japanese fascists or the American imperialists, they always hatch aggressive designs against our three countries. They always make use of the positions they have conquered in one of our three countries to commit aggression against the others. They always resort to the traditional "divide and rule" policy of making Indochinese fight Indochinese.

Having learned this lesson, our three peoples have clearly realized that our countries are closely linked together. None of our three countries can live in peace, independence, and freedom if the territory

of the others still remains a prey to imperialist aggression.

While resolutely defending our national independence, we have always strongly supported the struggle of fraternal neighbouring peoples to recover and safeguard their national independence.

present, as a result of the impudent expansion of the war of aggression of the US imperialists to the whole of Indochina and of the successes of historic significance of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the existing time-honoured friendship among the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples is further strengthening. Our militant solidarity has been forged in the protracted, hard but certain fraternal struggle of the three peoples fighting shoulder to shoulder against the US imperialists, the most dangerous enemy of the Indochinese peoples and the whole mankind. This militant solidarity is a sure guarantee of the total victory of our resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. It is an unshakable basis for the time-honoured fraternal co-operation among our three countries.

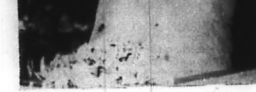
Premier Pham Van Dong recalled the US new schemes of aggression of both zone of Viet Nam and reaffirmed the Vietnamese people's resolve to resist and their support to the Khmer and Lao peoples' struggle.

The victory of the war of resistance of our three peoples will be a great contribution to the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. In their noble cause, our three peoples have always enjoyed the warm sympathy and priceless support of the socialist countries, the justice- and peace-loving countries and the peoples in the world, including progressives in the United States.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government express their sincere and profound gratitude for this noble international support. We are convinced that our brothers and friends in the world will give increased support and assistance in all spheres to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people as well as the Khmer and Lao peoples, till total victory.

SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK'S SPEECH

(Excerpts)



SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk expressed the emotion provoked in him by his current visit to the DRVN, "a country which is the pride of our Indochinese and all freedom-loving peoples, a glorious and heroic country."

You are perhaps aware that the reactionary traitors in Phnom Penh have given orders to their "military court" to sentence me to death for "high treason."

My so-called "betrayal" of the Khmer Fatherland is my inflexible policy of anti-imperialist solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese people and my conviction that the future of my people cannot be ensured in peace, security, independence and territorial integrity and, consequently, in dignity and happiness of life, unless it benefits for ever from the friendship of socialist Viet Nam which is and will be the only, unique genuine Viet Nam, because this is the Viet Nam of the entire Vietnamese people. (Whereas the "Republic" of Thieu-Ky, heirs to Ngo Dinh Diem, is not Viet Nam just as that of Lon Nol is not Cambodia.)

"My crime," according to the Lon Nol clique and their American bosses, is to have "betrayed the neutrality of Cambodia — I quote their own words — for the sake of the Viet Cong and the Viet Minh."

As I pointed out in my speech at the magnificent reception offered yesterday by His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Khmer people and I myself have really given to the fraternal Vietnamese people fighting against the US imperialists for the liberation of the Southern half of their Fatherland an effective support and assistance, that is to say a support and assistance which is not verbal.

This is because one cannot stand in the middle of the road between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, between the Americans who come from far away to neocolonize without any valid justification a neighbour country and a brother who has the sacred duty to drive the neo-colonialist foreigner out of his Fatherland.

What is more, to help the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US neo-colonialist imperialism means first of all to help my own Fatherland and my own people protect ourselves against the same mortal danger which is US aggression.

The puppet regime of Lon Nol itself has just substantiated my words in showing to the world that

by reversing her policy, Cambodia, which her numerous friends in the world used to call "an oasis of peace, stability, freedom, and progress," has within a few weeks become a real hell, offering at least on a great part of her territory a quasi-apocalyptic spectacle and becoming "after sixteen years of unqualified independence, a colony with as many as three masters — US imperialism, its lackey regime in Saigon, and another of its lackeys, the regime in Bangkok."

Samdech Head of State then dealt with measures to put an end to the Cambodian "tragedy," a "tragedy" which he said is inseparable from the South

remains a prey to imperialist aggression."

Nixon has greatly publicized his so-called irrevocable decision to withdraw all US ground forces from Cambodia at the end of next June.

But even if such a withdrawal takes place, that does not mean that any country will ipso facto recover its independence, neutrality and peace.

The satellite forces of the Thieu-Ky puppets have threatened to stay without limit in space or time in Cambodia where they will behave as in a conquered country.

The Lon Nol clique leaps for joy over it, while the Khmer people cannot tolerate such an occupation and such a colonization which are as anachronistic as it is impudent.

to be violated in a brazen manner by US bombers which will continue to rain on their peaceful population millions and millions of tons of bombs, napalm, etc. and this will last as long as the Khmer patriots keep up their fight against the traitors in Phnom Penh.

In such conditions it is unacceptable that we should ever accept the terms of the enemy who demands that the Khmer people down their arms even without being defeated, and that an "international conference" will "take charge" of our country, that is to say legalize the regime in Phnom Penh which has usurped constitutional power, as well as the new status of Cambodia as a new-type colony of the United States and of the latter's protégés in Saigon and Bangkok.

Samdech N. Sihanouk affirmed the Khmer people's determination to fight against US aggression.

BIOGRAPHY OF SAMDECH NORODOM SIHANOUK

- Born on October 31, 1922.
- Secondary education in Saigon (South Viet Nam).
- Higher education (Military) in Saumur (France).
- Elected King by the Council of the Crown in 1941.
- Abducted in favour of his father in 1955.
- 1953: After long months of negotiations with France he obtained the latter's agreement to transfer to Cambodia all powers that France still held after the signing of the "Treaty of Independence" in 1949: judicial, police, military, and diplomatic.
- 1955: Set up the *Sangkum Reastr Niyum*, a vast national gathering which included different political parties.
- Took part in the Asian-African Conference in Bandung (where he met Premier Pham Van Dong for the first time).
- 1955: Declared the neutrality of Cambodia.
- 1958: Granted Cambodia's *de jure* recognition to the People's Republic of China.
- 1960: Elected Head of State (after King Suramarit's death).
- Several times Chairman of the Council of Ministers.
- 1961: Led the Cambodian delegation to the Non-Aligned Countries Conference in Belgrade.
- Granted *de jure* recognition to the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria.
- 1962: Initiated the Geneva Conference on Laos.
- 1963: Rejected American aid (economic and military).
- Recognized the NFL as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.
- 1965: Broke off diplomatic relations with the USA.
- 1967: Recognized *de jure* the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.
- 1968-1969: Obtained official recognition of Cambodia's existing borders by fifty sovereign states (among them the DRVN and the RSVPNPRG).
- 1970: Announced Cambodia's *de jure* recognition of the RSVPNPRG.
- Accorded *de jure* recognition to the German Democratic Republic.
- Represented Cambodia at President Ho Chi Minh's funeral.
- 1970: Founded the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK).

Viet Nam tragedy and the Lao tragedy, the sole and similar tragedy of which is US imperialism.

His Excellency my dear brother Pham Van Dong has rightly underlined that "our destinies are closely linked to one another" that "none of our three countries can live in peace, independence and freedom while the territory of the others

The people of Cambodia, through my voice, express their deep and eternal gratitude to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for the support they have given to a backing and the important material assistance given them without any condition and in a spirit of complete fraternity for the triumph of their just cause.

Allow me also to express my warmest congratulations on their great successes which your government and your people, guided by the teachings of President Ho Chi Minh, have obtained in all the domains of peaceful and socialist construction.

War is the costliest thing in the world.

Having had to face it — the whole world knows with what heroism and at the price of what enormous sacrifices — the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has performed this unique *tour de force* by giving an extraordinary *elan* to her public works, her public health, her national education at all levels, her national economy, her industry and first of all her agriculture.

To describe such progress, I would like to use the term "miracles" but I must make it clear that this is the miracle of the faith, the ingenuity, the industrious patience and the patriotism of the most talented people in the world — the Vietnamese people.

That is a very great lesson this people give to all those who, like them, want to win in all spheres the total war American imperialism imposes on them.

Because such a war cannot be won with sheer courage and military skill. Such a war requires that the people concerned know also how to win the battle of economic and national economic rehabilitation.

As for our airbase, it continues

Editor's Note: Kasang is a district of Svay Rieng, a kind of Cambodian enclave in South Viet Nam and known these days as Parrot's Beak.

AT the Kasang srok (district), milpas had been burned. The *Chkol Chhnam* (Khmer New Year) was drawing near. The new land was awaiting the heavy rain and the peasant looked forward to the harvest time with its traditional festivities, in particular its *lan* dances all day and night long.

Nevertheless, what happened this year was much more important than the downpours and a bumper crop. And the thing was this.

day the man who at the royal ceremony of the Sacred Parrot holds the gold-handled plough and cuts a symbolical furrow to set the example for the whole country. At all events, the Trapeang Thmas *phum* was at a loss. So was the *phum* Popen. Even at the *phum* Ve Revang where people were somewhat more abreast with current events, nobody was able to explain the whole business. What people knew for certain was that on the other side of the border, on South Vietnamese territory, gunshots and shellings were becoming more intense and more frequent and planes roaring overhead day and night. Flares sent up over there illumined even low rooftop at the Popen *phum*.

But soon other pieces of news reached the srok. It was learnt that for 5 straight days, people had

In such circumstances, how can the Khmer peasant sit with folded arms? And Kompongcham and Kandal have blazed the trail for Svay Rieng and other provinces of the Kingdom.

The Kasang inhabitants went and looked for the men of the Prebhum Chhnam time (anti-colonialist Resistance prior to the recognition of the country's independence—E.A.). These were patriots who had always been in close touch with the deep aspirations of the people and showed them the right course to take each time they found themselves at the cross-roads. In these hours of perplexity, it was a good fortune for the inhabitants of many *phums* of Kasang, just as in the whole country, to receive leaflets carrying statements by Samdech calling for popular uprisings to overthrow

sat down well in line and chanted gallantly. An open-faced and intelligent-looking youth said convincingly, "These rifles were distributed to us by Samdech for the defence of the *phum*. In view of the present situation, we deem it necessary to return them to the people's power."

The conversations were in full swing when mothers of families and young girls brought more food and delicacies. The combatants heartily agreed to stop the night so that there was time to kill a pig for a small feast in their homes. However, moments later, an envoy from Popen turned up and announced that the nearby *phum* was awaiting them for a similar ceremony. Our combatants hastened to set off to the great disappointment of the inhabitants of Trapeang Thmas who wanted to retain them.

In only a few days, in all of Kasang, the reactionary Lon Nol administration became a thing of the past, a bad dream. More than a hundred civil-guards surrendered their rifles to the people's rule. Meetings were held in various *phums* in support of Samdech and to condemn the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique. The first one held in the centre of Kompong Trach to celebrate its liberation was attended by over 500 people. Bonzes also took part in it and chanted prayers "so that the people might be freed from the grip of the American demons and the forces of reaction." After long moments of reflection, a bonze said, "Svay Rieng has a really bad reputation in the whole country. It is in Svay Rieng that the first anti-Samdech demonstration occurred. However, it was staged by a handful of people who were far being representatives of the province's population. In reality, the people of Svay Rieng have always regarded the Vietnamese as brothers. As for us bonzes, we also hate the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique. Yet we didn't know what to do. Now we can clearly see where the truth lies and make a difference between right and wrong."

At present, the srok of Kasang is bustling with an activity never seen before. The downtrodden who have been hitherto so ruthlessly ground down and humiliated have voted in enthusiasm for the FUNK Committee whose task is to look after the *phums* and sroks in all fields. Everybody shouts "Chayao Samdech" (Support Samdech) and "Prachay Lon Nol!" (Down with Lon Nol). And gaily, people join in dancing the *lan* *kaos* while humming love songs. More than that, now they also and more often sing the songs of the Resistance which urge unity and patriotic action for national salvation and for the defence of the srok.

(Reportage by Thy Saroun, published in Svay Rieng News, April 17, 1970.)



And that very evening, with a small group of armed combatants, the population of the district streamed to Trapeang Thmas to witness the hand-over of the weapons by the rural militia.

These civil-guards, who have come to the meeting site by foot or by bike, looked very smart in their colourful sarongs. They held their rifles pointed downward. With an air of relief, their faces forward from another to hand over their weapons, piling them in groups of three. At this moment, a group of young girls returned from the fields with their buffaloes. They made a round and joined the crowd. They managed to get into the middle without their knowing it, leaving the animals to roam about looking in vain for their minders.

After having handed over their weapons the civil guards

IN CAMBODIA

Kasang Responds to SAMDECH SIRIK MATAK'S Appeal

ON the day in March last, Kasang market-goers returning from Svay Rieng the town related that an event rather unusual, had occurred there. A handful of drameur-carrying porters pretending to act on behalf of the entire province, should the slogans which were loudly to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's policy.

Then further news flowed in. A native of Treng Khet returning from Phnom Penh where he had settled, told of similar demonstrations in the capital. The only difference, however, was that in Phnom Penh these so-called spontaneous actions had been organized and directed publicly by army officers. In Phnom Penh too, soldiers were seen carrying new model weapons. Finally, the big news came like a bomb-shell. General Lon Nol declared that Samdech Head of State had been deposed.

Questions were asked. How could the National Assembly ratify such an ouster when Supreme Buddhist Dignitaries continued to hold Samdech in high esteem? And what did Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and the ilk really want? It is known that Lon Nol himself also comes from this province, or to be more correct, from the *phum* (village) of Ray, Chhang. He is a dangerous chap mixed. His men enter the pagodas without taking off their hats or their boots. Lon Nol used to recruit bandits for South Viet Nam. When the latter crossed the border, they assailed even simple travellers and peasants found on the road. When they lingered on the side of the border, they spent their time robbing the local people of their poultry and pigs, teasing women and young girls and collecting taxes in an arbitrary fashion from market-goers in Kompong Trach, Krabao or Stung. As for Sirik Matak, he is a prince. It is a bit of a surprise that this royal highness now comes out against Samdech Head of State. Maybe, Sirik Matak is dreaming to be some

demonstrated along the Memot-Kompongcham road with shouts of "Long Live Samdech!" and "Down with Lon Nol!" After that, two jets of the compacts made an attack run over Tule Bat, and the blood of peace-loving Khmer patriots began reddening the waters of the Mekong. In Kompongcham city, the people took to the streets and ransacked many offices of the Lon Nol administration. Most drastic was the action at Chlup where the insurgent population killed Lon Nol's younger brother, a police captain notorious for his cruelty.

In Takeo, the insurgents were joined by even Buddhist bonzes. They assaulted and seized the military post of the provincial capital. Lon Nol troops could hardly fire a few shots when the watch-towers were knocked down and the position was overrun by the wave of assailants.

As reprisals, Lon Nol aircraft bombed and strafed civilians. Six bomb craters could be seen in one place or another. Cambodia as a whole had been kept out of the war. That was thanks to Prince Norodom Sihanouk's policy of peace and neutrality. This had produced beneficial effects. It was like the sugar-palm which, on a land swept by torrid winds, provides its fresh shade and its juicy sap... Now the Lon Nol clique is conspiring to fell this traditional palm-tree of the land of Cambodia.

And such was the news which came to the inhabitants of Kasang srok.

OVER the past two years or so, though now and then gunfire was still heard in one place or another, Cambodia as a whole had been kept out of the war. That was thanks to Prince Norodom Sihanouk's policy of peace and neutrality. This had produced beneficial effects. It was like the sugar-palm which, on a land swept by torrid winds, provides its fresh shade and its juicy sap... Now the Lon Nol clique is conspiring to fell this traditional palm-tree of the land of Cambodia.